

Tips for Creating a Newspaper

When you are assigned a newspaper, it is important to spend some time brainstorming before you begin creating it. Things you need to consider:

Purpose

What task(s) are you being asked to do? Some teachers will ask you to write one or two articles about a significant event in history, while others might ask you to write a review of a book or a play. Knowing what your purpose is helps you determine the style of writing you want to use for each article.

Audience

Is your target audience a group of your peers? Or will it be set up like a traditional newspaper, so you are targeting a broader audience? Knowing your audience helps you when choosing your topic, template, and graphics.

Content

Once you know your purpose and audience, choose the content that would best support them both. You will want to use a variety of sources, perhaps from a novel or play that you're reading or from research you conduct about the topic.

Style

Different types of articles require different styles of writing. An article about historical events would require a non-biased approach, in which you would use the 5 Ws (Who/What/When/Where/Why) and How. You would be reporting without adding your own opinions. A review, on the other hand, would require you to draw a conclusion about how effectively the author or actors convey the theme of the book. This is an analysis of the techniques, such as figurative language or stage props, they use in order to do this. It is not a summary of the events.

Design

Many applications have created templates from which you can choose, so it is often as simple as dragging pictures into the template and entering the article into the section provided. However, there are other things to consider. In addition to the content you create, there is often space for the typical extras, such as advertisements, a table of contents for the rest of the paper, weather reports, etc. You need to choose a template and the extras that correlate with your purpose and audience.